

# How To ... Create Color Legends



Annotate  
Create Color Legends

## INTRODUCTION

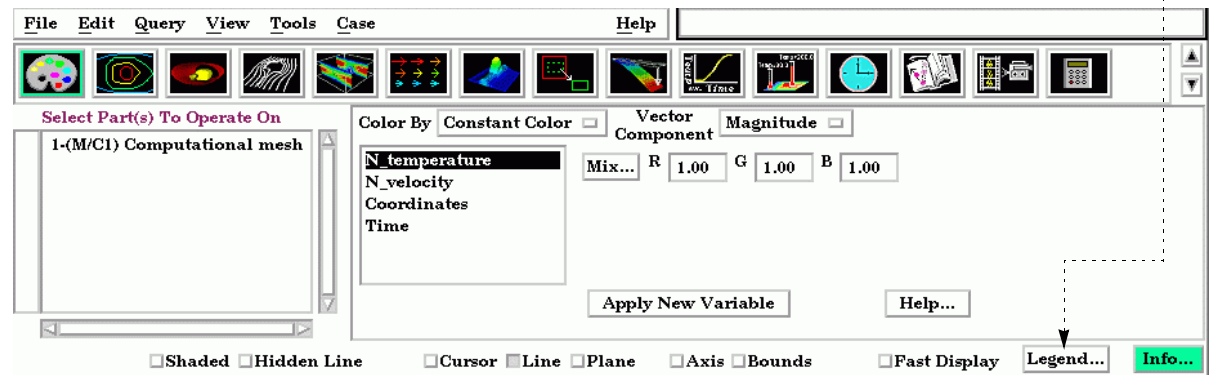
Every currently active variable has an associated color legend that can be displayed in the Graphics Window. Color legends provide essential information about images that use parts colored by variable values (color fringes). Legends are particularly important if the image is to be viewed by others.

Legends are drawn as a vertical color bar with associated variable values. The size and position of the color legend can be changed. This article discusses changing the appearance of color legends using Annotation mode. To edit the color palette itself (change colors or change the mapping from variable values to colors) see [How To Edit Color Palettes](#).

## BASIC OPERATION

To display a color legend:

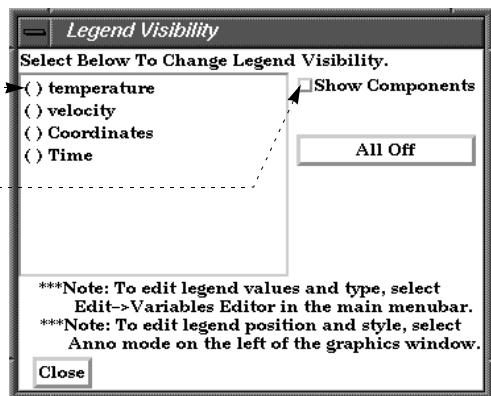
1. On the desktop, click the **Legend...** button.



2. Click the variable legend(s) you wish to display (or not display).

The list contains legends for scalar variables and for magnitude of vector variables. The components of vector variables will become available in the list if Show Components is toggled on.

More than one legend can be selected concurrently.



Note: ( ) indicates legend not currently visible,  
(\*) indicates currently visible legend.



## Resize or Reposition Color Legends

In Annotation Mode, color legends can be grabbed and then scaled or moved:

**1. Make a color legend visible as described above.**

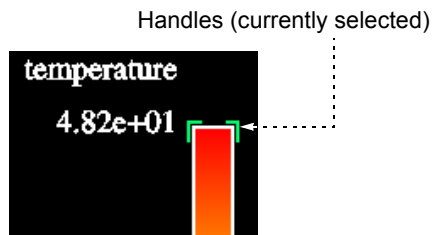
**2. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.**

Like other annotation entities, color legends must be selected prior to performing an operation. A selected color legend has handles surrounding the color bar colored in the highlight color (typically green). Unselected color legends have white handles.

**3. Select the desired color legend: move the mouse into the Graphics Window and click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar.**

**4. To move the color legend, place the mouse pointer within the color bar, click the left mouse button, and drag to the desired location.**

**5. To resize the color legend, place the mouse pointer over one of the four corner handles, click the left mouse button, and drag to the desired size.**



## OTHER NOTES

Additional icons in Annotation Mode provide control over legend appearance.

### Visibility

Visibility of Legends can be controlled in the Legend Visibility Dialog as explained above. Additionally, the visibility of selected legends can be turned off with the visibility icon in Annotation mode:

**1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.**

**2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).**

**3. Click the Visibility Toggle icon.**



### Color of Text and Colorbar Outline

To specify the color of the text and colorbar outline of selected color legends:

**1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.**

**2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).**

**3. Click the Color icon.**



**4. Specify the desired color with the [Color Selector](#) dialog and click Apply.**



## Location

Although you can interactively reposition a color legend with the mouse, you sometimes need to specify the size and position precisely:

1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Object Location icon.



4. Enter values for X & Y (lower left corner) and/or X2 & Y2 (upper right corner) and press return.

## Legend Type

To specify the type of selected color legends:

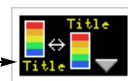
1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Legend Type Pulldown icon and select either Continuous (the default) or Discrete.



## Title Position

To specify position of the title of selected color legends:

1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Legend Title Position Pulldown icon and select either Above (the default), Below, or None.



## Text Position

To specify position of the variable value label text of selected color legends:

1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Legend Label Position Pulldown icon and select either Left (the default), Right, or None.

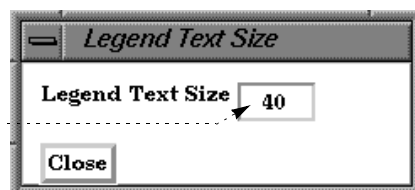




## Text Size

To specify size of all text (title and labels) of selected color legends:

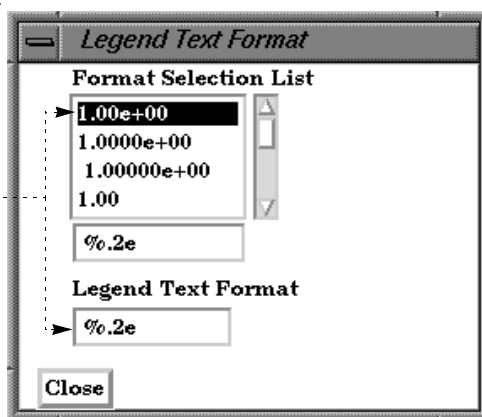
1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Legend Text Size icon.
4. Enter the desired text size and press return.



## Text Label Format

To specify the format of all variable value labels of selected color legends:

1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection area.
2. Select the desired color legend (click the left mouse button anywhere within the color bar).
3. Click the Legend Label Format icon.
4. Either select a pre-defined format from the Format Selection List or enter a new format string in the Legend Text Format field.
5. Press return in the Legend Text Format field.



## Legend Orientation

A legend can be horizontal or vertical.

1. Click Annot in the Mode Selection Area.
2. Select the desired color legend in the graphics window.
3. Click the Legend Orientation icon.



## SEE ALSO

[How To Edit Color Palettes](#)

User Manual: [Annot Mode](#)